

New York Tribune.

First to Last—the Truth: News—Editorials—Advertisements.

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Employees Who Run the City.

Mayor Mitchell and Controller Prendergast are at one regarding the activities of school teachers' organizations—and organizations of other city employees, too, for that matter—in seeking salary raises and other special privileges by legislation. They are to be commended for their stand in the case of the school teachers especially. The "equal pay" lobbying was "pernicious activity," as the Mayor well says, misnamed, generally misunderstood and disastrously expensive.

It benefited certain groups of teachers—a certain restricted class of the population—at the expense of the city at large. The teachers cannot be blamed, perhaps, for selfishly seeking their own advancement, but the brazenness of their political course and the general conduct of some of their leaders are surprising in an enlightened and cultured class intrusted with the training of the young and the planting of ideals of citizenship and unselfish service of the state.

Against such "pernicious activity" there must be better protection than the city officials, elected to administer its affairs and handle its finances, are now able to give. When the teachers can go to Albany and obtain an "equal pay" law which involves the spending of millions of dollars which the city hardly can raise they are more powerful than the Board of Estimate. When court clerks or county employees can change their working conditions, including pay, by legislation, they, too, have a power over the city's tax rate which the Board of Estimate cannot touch.

The city's finances have now reached a condition which makes it imperative that this matter be fought out. The Legislature refused to pass a bill giving to the city officials power over compensation of all employees paid out of the proceeds of the tax levy. The question is a basic one in all discussions of home rule which are going on in the Constitutional Convention. This is one power without which the New York City government cannot afford to go on. It is devoutly to be hoped the Constitutional Convention will exercise a broader and saner judgment in the treatment of the question than the Legislature did.

Sterling Exchange.

The recent phenomenal drop in sterling exchange should be regarded simply as an annoyance. It means that Great Britain, whose credit, with the exception, perhaps, of our own, is the best in the world, is finding it physically difficult to pass us the money to pay for tremendous wartime purchases. The deposit of gold in Ottawa is running low and the activity of German submarines discourages direct payment.

The tendency in some quarters to rejoice because the dollar is now worth \$1.02 in English gold is therefore quite as unreasonable as the more rarely expressed fear that John Bull has arrived at the end of his financial tether.

But what is he to do about it? German submarines are likely to continue and even to increase their interference. And he must continue and even increase his purchases of supplies from Uncle Sam. The obvious remedy is to create a large credit here. But this raises the question of collateral. There is reason to believe that Americans do not care for British war bonds. American securities they would be glad to take. But foreign holders of these show no general inclination to part with them.

There is talk in London of a "mobilization" of English-held "Americans" as the basis of a credit on this side. There is also talk of shipments of gold here from South Africa, outside the beat of the German submarine. Some effective remedy will be decided upon soon, no doubt, to the greater comfort of both creditor and debtor.

Excursions to Blackwell's.

Commissioner Katharine B. Davis is nothing if not resourcefully original. Having come to the conclusion that old offenders, particularly among women, repeat their offenses for the sake of the ferry trip to the Island, she has decided to offer them, and any who might emulate them, free rides back and forth over the fateful strip of tide. The good ship Correction promises, therefore, to become something of a pleasure craft, eastward as well as westward bound, a transformation almost equivalent to making a Sunday morning fishing smack out of Charon's wherry on the Styx.

The analogy seems closer still when it is reflected that the women to be benefited are those who drink not wisely but too well. Miss Davis thinks the free excursions will discourage their libations, on the theory that now they drink that they may be arrested and committed to the Island. But when has the prospect of a voyage for pleasure on the bosom of New York's encircling flood discouraged drinking? Rather does the joy of it urge one's

steps directly to the pothouse, where one may regard the dancing waters in anticipation near the goblet's rim. And later comes the surreptitious pull on the flask while gazing in dreamy meditation over the gunwale. These are pictures, at least, inspired by memories of the Coney Island passage and of trips to the fishing banks among (on other days) highly temperate citizens.

But whether or not the free rides prove a cure for alcoholism, Miss Davis should be congratulated on the innovation. The sunlight and air and change of environment will do even the intemperate some good and cost the city only a little extra care in so providing that real prisoners are not confused with excursionists.

The Fate of the U-29.

The German official report on the loss of the U-29 would be more impressive had it not been so boldly anticipated in a series of semi-official guesses.

The first news of the occurrence was the following cautious announcement, published on March 25 by the Secretary of the British Admiralty: "The Admiralty have good reason to believe that the German submarine U-29 has been sunk with all hands." About a fortnight later this report was confirmed by the German Admiralty.

There was no evidence whatever on which to base the vaguest conjecture as to the manner in which the vessel was sunk. All that the Germans knew was that she had not returned to port; for the rest they had nothing to guide them except the indefinite statement of the British Admiralty. Nevertheless, without waiting for any further information such writers as Reventlow gave their fancy a fling and concluded at once that Otto Weddigen and his brave crew must have been victims of British treachery.

It was boldly intimated that the commander had been decoyed to his doom by the illegal use of some neutral flag; it was even intimated, without the slightest shadow of evidence, that in all probability the gallant crew were at the time engaged in saving lives. This was all pure invention, admittedly founded on nothing but fancy, yet in popular opinion it was for the British to clear themselves of a suspicion which, as Captain Persius put it, "smirches England's navy with eternal disgrace."

Nearly three months later comes "a confirmation of the long standing rumors," the confirmation consisting in a bare official statement that the U-29 was rammed by a British tank steamer flying the Swedish flag. This is the sort of confirmation that was hoped for by the guessers, but as it is no more than a slight amplification of hysterical imaginings that were put forth three months ago, when there was absolutely no evidence anywhere available except the British Admiralty's announcement, it is not possible to take it very seriously.

A Warning to Quacks.

One of the most industrious of the quacks lately rounded up by the New York County Medical Society has just been sentenced to a term of six months in the penitentiary. Rogues dealing in false labels have been punished no less severely, yet the sentence is said to be the longest yet imposed upon the proprietor of a medical museum, so called.

These fellows have for the most part been let off all too easily, and it may be hoped that the example will have a salutary effect on other specialists of the same order. There is something peculiarly detestable in this form of quackery. All quacks count more or less on the timidity and ignorance of their patients, but the keepers of these medical museums went about their work in the most mischievous manner. They were probably no more pernicious than the common run of cancer cures and dispensers of remedies for tuberculosis and what not, but they had directer and more ingenious ways of frightening their victims, of whom a majority were peculiarly subject to this sort of suggestion.

A few more prison sentences without the option of a fine should serve to clear the town of such impostors. The wonder is that they were suffered to ply their trade so long.

Having It Both Ways.

A common weakness is often found in the reformer and his zealous opponent. Each is so eager to prove his point that he grabs all the arguments he can from the other and turns them to his own account till at last he is convicted of reasoning against himself.

Thus in discussing capital punishment at Albany last Wednesday it would not suffice to dwell on the barbarity, unrighteousness, cruelty and horror of the death penalty or even to show with an array of figures that it had not proved in any manner deterrent. It must needs be shown that the victim himself suffers not at all, but so delights in the prospect of death that his fate instead of serving as a terror to others is in fact an incentive to those of criminal inclination. One orator referred to the days when highway robbery was a capital offence. "What was the result?" he asked. "The profession of highway robbery became a career held in high esteem, and Dick Turpin became a popular idol." Similarly, as another speaker intimated, the electric chair had created a spirit of emulation among our promising young gunmen.

On the same evening another set of reformers met in Brooklyn to discuss the question of what used to be called race suicide and to consider the necessity of instructing the poor in the desirability of family limitation. It was not enough to argue that there were too many people in the world or to point out that multiplying and replenishing the earth with undesirables was not of benefit to humanity. One of the most enthusiastic speakers had to go a step further, arguing that "the legalizing of such knowledge in other

countries" had been so successful that in one instance at least "the birth rate had actually increased!"

This same desire to have it both ways is quite as common among the vehement opposers of innovation. It is a stock argument among the anti-suffragists that women, if they had the right to vote, would fail to exercise it, but that does not prevent them from pointing out the fearful mischief that must result from granting it to them.

Scarborough and Zabern.

The United Kingdom has no Zabern. It has, however, a Scarborough, which, by way of contrast, should go down in history side by side with Zabern. For Scarborough very recently was the scene of a Zabern incident whose settlement places in the sharpest juxtaposition the civilizations of the two chief belligerents.

Buried among advertisements near the bottom of "The Dundee Advertiser's" last page lately there appeared this item:

At Scarborough yesterday Brigadier General N. T. Nickalls was fined two guineas for assaulting a young civil servant named Horsman. The Brigadier had asked Horsman to enlist during a recent recruiting effort, and Horsman had replied that the government would not release him, but he had since been released and had enlisted. It was stated that when Horsman told him he had applied unsuccessfully to be released the brigadier said: "That's a lie; I don't believe you." Horsman, feeling in his pocket for the papers, replied that he would prove who was the liar, whereupon the officer struck him, saying: "I'll teach you to call me a liar." The brigadier told the bench that Horsman called him a liar first, and a man in his position who was so insulted in public had no other redress, whether it was legal or not. Before leaving the court the brigadier shook hands with Horsman, with whom he chatted while the magistrates were consulting.

It will be noted that the convicted British general, in time of war, merely slapped the civilian's face. Lieutenant Baron von Forstner, in Zabern, in time of peace, carved the crippled shoemaker's scalp with his sabre while one of his men held the victim. And Lieutenant Baron von Forstner was acquitted.

But how typically British is the unconscious dismissal of this episode at Scarborough as barely worth mentioning in the routine of the day's news, when its significance staggers the imagination! What need for White Papers and White Books with Zabern and Scarborough on the map!

Feminism's Blow to Literature.

One by one traditions and conventions go toppling over in this age of progress—or iconoclasm. Justice Blanchard is responsible for the downfall of the latest one. In an *obiter dictum* he remarks: "The time has gone by when an action for divorce can be predicated on the mere fact that a woman visits a man at his apartments. This is an enlightened age, and women are encroaching upon man's sphere of activities. They may have professional business together, and this is especially the fact when they are members of the same profession."

All this is true, and is pretty generally recognized by sensible people. But whatever will literature and drama do if the tradition, punctured by common sense, also becomes untenable in law? The situation of the innocent wife in the other man's rooms at night is gray headed and stoop shouldered from overwork in novel and play. Almost as common is the incident of the sweet young thing who is inveigled into a "compromising" situation by the dastardly villain who hopes to gain her, her money, sweet r-r-evenge, or something of the sort. Of course, all comes out "right" in the end, after three acts or seventeen chapters, and the dear, good audience knows all's going to end happily.

But some reform must be achieved by the authors if the absurdity of misunderstanding which three or four words of natural explanation would settle forthwith is becoming so patent that even the law and the bench solemnly recognize it. It seems time to expect a refurbishing of literary and dramatic stock in trade to keep pace with the advance in feminism.

Coincident with the shortage of beer in Munich comes the news of a shortage of whiskey in the United Kingdom. Surely beer cannot be long postponed.

Lambs Ready for King Sing—Headline.
 How Wall Street must envy the suburb upriver.

Cost of Boer War.

(From The Dundee Advertiser.)
 The South African war lasted for two years and eight months, and cost in all £250,000,000. The forces of Great Britain numbered 448,000, and were made up of 337,000 from these countries, 49,000 from the colonies, 52,000 raised in South Africa, and 10,000 of a garrison. This number seems quite small when compared with the army which Britain has in the field at the present time. The number of officers and men reported killed amounted to 7,782, while 23,342 were reported wounded; while disease and accidents were responsible for 13,773 deaths. These accidents were of almost every conceivable kind, and included men killed by the bursting of guns, derailing of trains, kicks from horses; while it was also asserted that several had been devoured by lions. The majority of those who died from disease were victims of enteric fever and dysentery. In all, the number of deaths was under 22,000.

Has Not Petitioned Whitman.

To the Editor of The Tribune.
 Sir: In your edition for June 14 you state that Mr. John H. Harrison, the victim of the crimes of the murderer Sam Haynes, has signed a petition asking Governor Whitman to save the murderer's life, and that this petition is being circulated and is being signed by others apparently on the strength of Harrison's signature. Mr. Harrison is with me as I write. He asserts that he has never seen such a petition, never signed one, nor ever will do so; nor has he authorized any person to use his name in connection with any such petition. Whoever has so used his name is guilty of forgery. I write at Mr. Harrison's request to suggest that you correct the false statement made in your columns on Monday. C. B. F. PEASE.
 Pawling, N. Y., June 17, 1915.

ITALY'S PART

To Fight for Civilization Against Teutonic Tyranny.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: I have read several letters in your editorial page condemning Italy's justification in entering the war as being a perfidious and treacherous act. Many letters justify Austria-Hungary's attack on Serbia because of the Serbs having murdered their own rulers and the Austrian Archduke.

It may be well to remind you that one apparent reason why the Serbs murdered their own rulers was because of their inability to collect the check framed by German and Austrian politicians and issued by the latter to Serbia, which pledged the payment of Bosnia and Herzegovina after a period of some twenty or thirty years, which was forfeited. The paramount reason why Austrian subjects murdered the Archduke was, as it goes without saying, that the Serbs could not bear to have a new ruler from a tyrant country that had betrayed them any more than they could endure the rulers of their own who allowed themselves to be betrayed.

The present war was to be a punitive expedition especially against Serbians for having the impudence to sympathize with their Serb and Croat brothers in Austria-Hungary. Attack was to have been made in August, 1913, or one year previous to the murder of the Archduke, this having been revealed recently to the world by Signor Giolitti, but upon Italy's refusal to join Austria in a war of aggression the matter was postponed for a year or so, when the murder of the Austrian Archduke proved a fitting occasion to wipe Serbia and Belgium off the map.

The punitive expedition started in last August (as the world now knows) by Magyars and Teutons murdering two or three thousand men, women and children of the Serbian Slavs. They have burned a large number of women and children alive and gouged the eyes of others. (See Dr. Reiss's article in the "Revue de Paris" for April, 1915, and the Serbian official memorandum and reports. The evidence of the memorandum was taken on the spot within a few days of the commission of the atrocities by Dr. Arius von Tienhoven, of The Hague, Holland, and M. Jules Smidt, a Swiss engineer. Dr. Reiss, of Lausanne, also took first hand evidence and photographs viewing the atrocities.)

Precisely similar methods were adopted by the Germans in Belgium and by the Turks in Armenia, those on Belgium with greater violence than any, and while performing this sort of savage brutalities upon unarmed and unfortunate peasant civilians Germany and Austria were urging Italy to join their side (though the treaty of the Triple Alliance pledged no aid in an aggressive war), which meant to uphold their course in having taken the international code into their own hands and help them to press on the barbarities with greater might. Any person of common sense can see that the Italian people would have been perfect lunatics if they ever attempted to enter the war on these pretences, and would have been condemned by the world as such.

The continuance of adopting these unscrupulous and insane methods of warfare on a larger scale than as yet practised, namely, the burning and destruction of cities, asphyxiating gases and chlorine bombs, Zeppelins and the wholesale butchery at sea, showed the Italian people the situation that confronted them, which was to fall upon Italy without a moment's notice, as Serbia, Belgium, Armenia and America have experienced. It was merely a question of gaining time by the central powers, which, from the standard of their business ethics (Teutons and Magyars), have not shown that they sleep with their head on a conscientious pillow, and, therefore, the Italian people could no longer rely on treaties or pledges from Austria-Hungary or Germany any more than they could trust an insane man.

It is true that Italy has a large number of Italian brothers under Austrian tyranny whom she aims to free, as other small nations do in behalf of their subjects, and she will sacrifice militarism against militarism for the present in place of women with children and babies clutched in their arms. Just how far the militarism will go remains to be seen by events. For the Kaiser and the Czar, (the tiger and the wolf) with their military caste, editors and diplomats, have sworn vengeance in words of blood. However, if this crucial war will end in the overthrow of the feudal Magyar and Austrian tyranny, Turk infidel and Prussian militarism, an immense step will have been taken toward racial liberty and civilization will be restored. Italy, however selfish, is therefore fighting for a noble and only cause that her people could avail themselves of, a cause forced upon her by those who started this war that brought forth the greatest European conflagration. A. VOLPE.
 New York, June 10, 1915.

Good from Street Meetings.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: In reference to a remark in the letter of "American Loving the Truth," which set forth the pleasing thought of the good the "riff-raff" might derive from hearing such able orators as Theodore Neilson and William J. Ross at their Madison Square meetings, I most heartily acquiesce in the writer's opinion. While I never have had the experience of attending the Madison Square meetings, I had the pleasure of hearing a debate at Thirty-seventh Street and Broadway on Friday, May 28: "Resolved, Christianity is a Menace to Society," and now desire through the medium of The Tribune to congratulate William J. Ross not alone for his able and brilliant exposition of the negative, but for bringing right home to his hearers that God and Christianity are not responsible for the present chaotic conditions prevailing throughout the world, but that the blame lies with man and his complete failure to live up to the teachings of the Christ.

It is my sincere hope that every one of the large audience, who so attentively listened, and all who may read this will make a new start. "Take up thy cross and follow me," said the Leader of Christianity, "and so hasten the day" as Mr. Ross so beautifully put it in his closing words—"when words shall be beat into ploughshares and spears into pruning hooks and the whole world united into one eternal brotherhood in God through Jesus Christ. Let us pray for that time to come speedily."

A CHRISTIAN WORKER.
 New York, June 13, 1915.

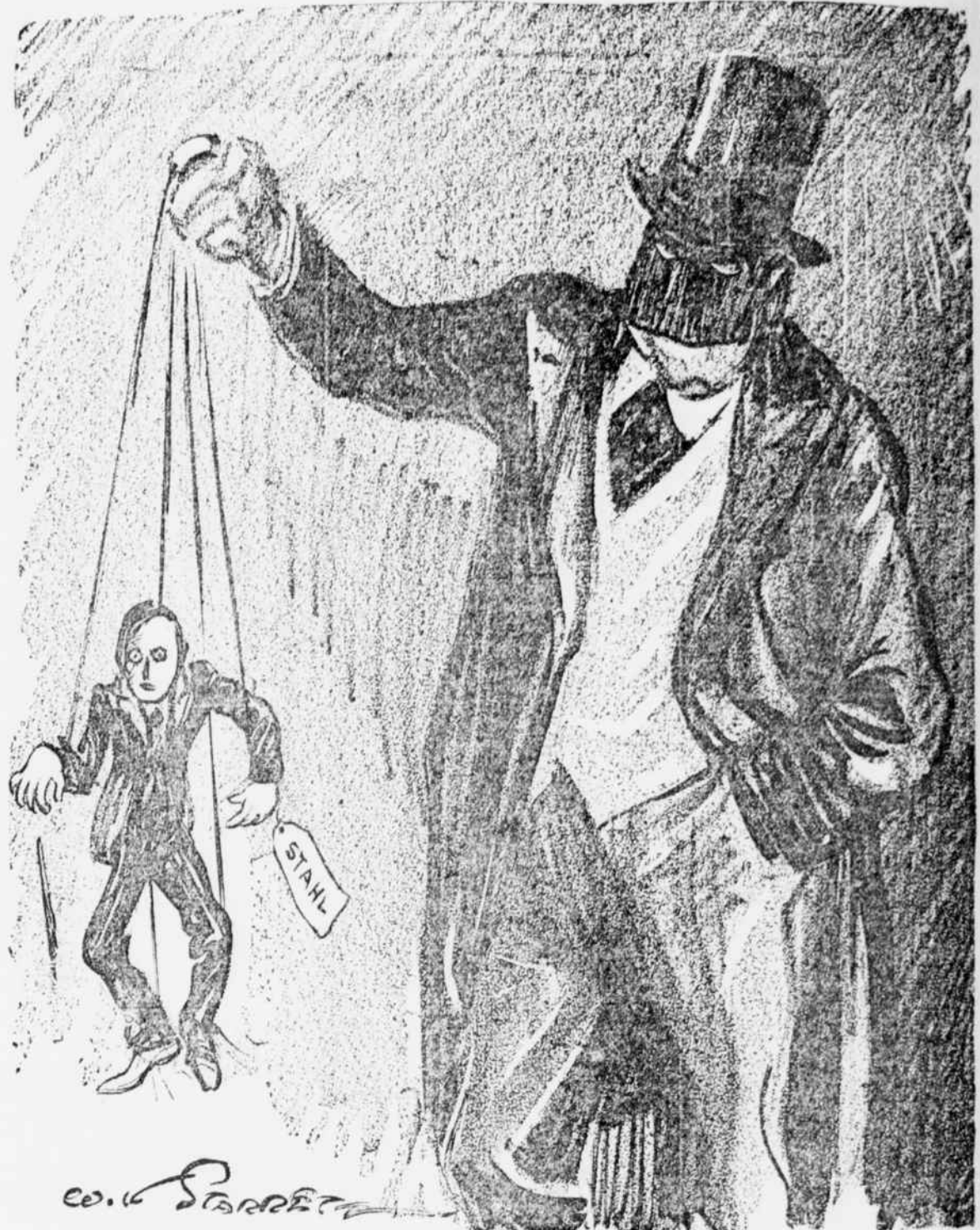
Back to The Circus.

To the Editor of The Tribune.
 Sir: It is incomprehensible to me how a man whose perspective is so limited could have held the office of Secretary of State for so long.

Mr. Bryan's ability as a lecturer is as well known as his crass stupidity in the handling of the diplomatic service and the notorious neglect of his duties in general.

No doubt to a vast majority of the people his resignation is highly satisfactory. Going from town to town, village to village, with or without other circus performers, "it matters not," Bryan is politically dead. JULES R. GIMBERNAT.
 New York, June 13, 1915.

WHO PULLS THE STRINGS?



MR. BRYAN'S NEW FRIENDS.

Support of German Army Veterans a Sufficient Commentary.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Speaking, he says, for "300,000 loyal American citizens who have served in the German army," Mr. Christoph Rehban states in to-day's Tribune that he and the other 299,999 German veterans are "opposed to the policy followed by President Wilson," and that "we are in full accord with the actions of former Secretary of State William Jennings Bryan, in each and every respect."

The American people and the American press have declared themselves as being squarely behind and with the President; Mr. Bryan and his German friends declare themselves as being emphatically opposed to the President. This helps to clear the air, though it was perfectly "clear" before, as far as those gentlemen are concerned. This combination of Mr. Bryan and these ex-German soldiers is highly interesting. Strange mates are these in a "flowery bed" of peace!—Mr. Bryan, advocate of peace-at-any-price, and these 300,000 former members of the army of the advocates of war-at-any-cost! Whatever mystery may be connected with Mr. Bryan's noble and self-sacrificing surrender of such a large part of his "Cabinet-Chautauqua" income, in the thought of the American people, as far as his new-found friends are concerned his policy is perfectly clear and delightfully acceptable (some of our other over-hyphenated friends, the Irish-American-pro-German-anti-British brigade, might also "get in" on this; the grape juice is "fine"—acceptable not because that policy makes for peace, but because the result of it would mightily favor the interests of that which is directly responsible for this horrible war and all its loathsome accompaniments—German militarism).

We hope that Mr. Bryan is proud of his supporters. He has certainly clinched the Teutonic vote; he'll need all the "tonic" he can get. We trust also that he and they may understand that they speak for themselves and for whatever private interests that they may have to serve. "German veterans" may be "for Bryan," but American veterans, sons and grandsons of American veterans, are for the President and for the safety, honor and welfare of our country. Contrary to Mr. Bryan's 300,000 German late-military partisans, many millions of Americans with only one country declare themselves as in full accord with the "policy followed by President Wilson," and as being absolutely opposed to the "actions of former Secretary of State William Jennings Bryan, in each and every respect."

WILLIAM H. WATTS,
 Rector of St. Mary's Church,
 Haledon, N. J., June 15, 1915.

Praise for Bryan.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Having read the article written by C. C. W. published in your Saturday issue under the heading "Our Cowardly Secretary," I cannot refrain from recording a protest. This is but one of the many articles which have gone beyond the point of honest criticism and have exhibited a spirit of unfairness and injustice.

Every honest and intelligent man should honor and appreciate a man who has the courage of his convictions and who would rather be right than Secretary of State. It is a poor judge of human nature who calls such a man a coward. We may differ radically from such a man, but we must respect him.

The crying evil of the day is the natural tendency of mankind to follow the crowd, and the cause of the present tragic state of affairs throughout the nations of Europe is the failure of the individuals to do their own thinking and acting.

The progress of civilization has been retarded at every step by the lack of independence among the leaders, whose love of precedent has resulted in many an unfair decision.

For some years we have been talking and considering every means by which a world peace could be maintained. After many conferences treaties were signed, and our great men and all our newspapers revelled in talk of the great world-wide peace. Among these men was Mr. Bryan, an ardent advocate of the doctrine, and a man who has always exhibited a sincere Christian spirit. He now feels that in order to be consistent he must

do everything in his power to maintain peace. He is following the light as he sees it. In order not to embarrass the President he resigns from his position and leaves the reins of government to others, asking a hearing merely as a private citizen. In such a position the world can move on and forget that such an individual exists. What more can the people ask? Is that not eminently fair?

We are very glad to have a President who is so peace loving, and we are equally glad that our former Secretary of State, a man who has always been "without fear and without reproach,"

B. MAPES.
 New York, June 13, 1915.

Professor Henderson's Arguments.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: I have just read Major Putnam's letter in your issue of to-day, and I am glad to see Professor Henderson's arguments so ably refuted by one who is able to speak with knowledge. During all this war controversy there is so much written by those who are entirely ignorant and unqualified to express an opinion at all that the correspondence columns of the papers become very wearisome. That a man of Professor Henderson's standing should draw any comparison between the devastation caused by the Northern armies in the Civil War and that wrought by the Germans in Belgium is amazing. Even were his statements accurate, there would still be no parallel, because North and South were at war, and Germany was not at war with Belgium, but invading it regardless of treaty obligations.

The professor's attempt to justify Germany is on a par with every other attempt that I have read. The truth of the matter is that no justification is possible in the minds of thinking men who are not influenced by an inherent love of the fatherland. For forty years Germany prepared for this war; she started it when she was ready, and she has since carried it on without any regard for international law or the laws of common humanity which have hitherto prevailed. She has broken treaties, slaughtered innocent women and children, and allowed her armies to rape and riot and devastate. The day of reckoning will come, however, and she will have to pay the price.

The sinking of the Lusitania has been attempted to be justified by the fact that Germany is fighting for her life. That is quite true. But would a man drowning in the sea, finding a life raft with women and children on it and no room for him, throw some off and save himself? No! He was a man. And the German people should gladly submit to an honorable defeat rather than attempt to win by such dastardly methods. Contrast the action of the English. A few days ago they found several Germans floating in the North Sea on a damaged aeroplane, and, although these were combatants who would have killed them if they could, they were rescued and taken prisoners.

Germany has only succeeded in arousing the hate and the scorn of the civilized world. She has gained no material advantage by her atrocities. She seems to forget that after the war is over she will still have to live. She is doomed to present, but Russia will come back beaten at the present, but Russia will come back with overwhelming numbers and increased armaments and ammunition, and then let Germany look out. The Allies are united, and every day tells in their favor. Germany must either wipe them out of existence or be crushed to the earth. Can any sane man imagine she can do that?

AN IRISH UNIVERSITY MAN.
 New York, June 5, 1915.

Against Mr. Walsh.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: I read with more than ordinary gratification your admirable article on Frank P. Walsh, chairman of the Industrial Relations Commission, and I think every fair-minded citizen must endorse your views. The statement made by Walsh that the commission "has proved the absolute responsibility of John D. Rockefeller, Jr. for everything that happened in Colorado" is untrue, according to the weight of evidence elicited in the investigation.

The many, truthful and conscientious statements of Mr. Rockefeller are entitled to far more consideration than the blatant, bullying manners of Walsh in conducting the examination in his attempt to prove that "carefully organized and extensive campaign had been undertaken to deceive the people."

PATERSON, N. J., June 12, 1915. D. B. S.

DEBT IMPRISONMENT FOOLISH

Hurts Prisoner and Doesn't Help His Creditor.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: You published a letter from "H. J." commenting on a recent editorial, "Abolish Imprisonment for Debt." If "H. J." is a sincere advocate of imprisonment for debt, perhaps he can point out one or two real benefits of it. Will the creditor receive any benefit, or will the account of the unfortunate be liquidated by a period of confinement? Rather will not the account remain the same, with less chance of settlement because the debtor has been deprived of his liberty and subsequently the opportunity of profit or income from some marketable occupation, to disregard the natural resentment he would feel toward his persecutor (indeed, the absence of any benefit makes the motive persecution)?

Moreover, the fact that credit is an entirely equitable privilege cannot be disregarded. If a merchant decides to advance credit it is to be assumed that he has made use of the facilities of investigation of the applicant. People who have nothing to conceal welcome such investigations, and look upon them as the formalities of modern business. If any object then the merchant may withhold credit.

Equip modern business with a system such as "H. J." outlines and the unscrupulous merchant will welcome it as a new means of distribution for questionable merchandise. Debt laws are not needed for the merchant in this age. Let the merchants themselves get together and decide on a standard of credit requirements, and there will be fewer "small tradespeople going to the wall."

Brooklyn, June 15, 1915. W. G. L.

A Nation Gone Mad.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Appalled by the horrors of this brutal war I had finally, and, as I thought, irrevocably, come to the conclusion that war under any and all circumstances is a crime, that it is not and never has been justifiable or in accord with the will of God, who, I believe, only desired men to fight with spiritual weapons.

Then came the cowardly blow that sank the Lusitania and in a moment scattered hundreds of defenceless men, women, children and babies in arms upon the ocean to die like so many rats. That dastardly act of a "Christian" nation revived the question which I thought I had settled forever: "Was war ever right?" And I asked myself, "What must one think of a nation that can so forget itself, and so far forget every law of God and man, as deliberately to commit a crime like that? I thought long before I could think it out. At last the answer came: That nation is a lunatic nation, mad with ambition, pride and envy, and must be treated by the other nations just as individuals would treat a madman, whether crazed by drink or by delusions of persecution or otherwise temporarily insane, who attempted to run amuck on the highway and "shoot up the town." What should we do in such a case? Run for shelter like rats and leave the lunatic to make as many victims as chance might put in his way; or join with others to run him down, disarm him, and put him where he could do no further harm? Every good citizen would do the latter in the absence of the police or in necessary support of the police.

What, then, of Germany? Is it not evident that every brave, self-respecting, God-fearing people should join in the effort to disarm that lunatic nation and bring it to its senses? And this need not and should not consist in the doing in the spirit of hate, but in the spirit of love; just as in the case of a lunatic individual we do not disarm or confine him in order to punish him, but in order that we may be in a position to heal him and bring him to himself.

And so I have decided that war is sometimes justifiable, and certainly when a nation scorns and defies the moral law (so extolled by her own philosopher, Kant) as Germany has done from the beginning of this war with a recklessness that makes insanity the only charitable assumption.

CEPHAS GUILLET.
 Westfield, Mass., June 5, 1915.